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NEWS AND COMMENT

The work of the department of Indiana history and archives is summarized in the *Thirtieth Biennial Report* of the librarian of the Indiana State Library for the period ending September 30, 1914 (Indianapolis, 1914. 107 p.). The department, which was formally established by an act of March 6, 1913, has "the care and custody of official archives which come into the possession of the state library" and is authorized to examine and classify "documents and records not of present day use to their respective departments." Among its purposes and duties are also "the collection of materials bearing upon the history of the state and of the territory included therein; the diffusion of knowledge with reference to the history of the state; the encouragement of historical work and research." Dr. Harlow Lindley, professor of history in Earlham College, is the director of the department.

Another forward step was taken in Indiana when the last legislature established the Indiana Historical Commission to consist of the governor, the director of the Indiana historical survey of Indiana University, the head of the department of archives and history of the state library, and five others to be appointed by the governor. The functions of the commission are twofold: to make arrangements for the celebration in 1916 of the centennial of the admission of the state to the Union, and to edit and publish documentary material relating to the history of the state. Twenty-five thousand dollars has been appropriated for the work of the commission and of this amount five thousand dollars has been set aside for the second phase of its activities. The commission has an article in the June *Bulletin* of the state library setting forth some of its plans and asking for coöperation in carrying them out.

The State Historical Society of Missouri has issued its *Seventh Biennial Report* for the two years ending December 31, 1914 (Jefferson City, [1915]. 47 p.). The law governing the society, which is printed in this *Report*, establishes it as trustee of the state and directs that it shall "hold all its present and future col-

lections and property for the state." The same statute provides that "sixty bound copies of each of the several publications of the state, and of its societies and institutions" shall be given to the society to be used in exchange with other societies and institutions. A large fireproof building, now in course of construction in Columbia, will house both the historical society and the library of the University of Missouri.

The board of directors of the Kansas State Historical Society has issued its *Nineteenth Biennial Report* for the period ending June 30, 1914 (Topeka, 1915. 175 p.). The society has just moved its library and museum and the state archives, of which it has charge, into a Memorial Building constructed by the state at a cost of about half a million dollars. Inasmuch as the society's collections number 237,686 books and pamphlets, 149,851 archival documents, 44,628 other manuscripts, 9,127 pictures, 7,616 maps, atlases, and charts, and 9,809 relics, it will readily be seen that the moving was no small task. The work appears to have been sadly hampered by lack of funds and by lack of equipment in the new building. William E. Connelly is now secretary of the society, succeeding George W. Martin, who died March 27, 1914.

The *Twenty-seventh Report* of the commissioner of public records of Massachusetts (Boston, 1915. 9 p.) is for the year 1914. The commissioner, Henry E. Woods, inspected the condition of public records in one hundred and fifty towns during the year and made many recommendations for their better care and protection against fire. Acting upon his orders, a number of towns and counties had records repaired, renovated, and bound by the Emery Record Preserving Company. The report contains a list of approved typewriter ribbons and stamping pads. The use of any other ribbons or pads in the making of public records, either state or local, is forbidden by law.

Ten years ago representatives of twelve historical societies in Pennsylvania met in Harrisburg and organized the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. The *Acts and Proceedings* of the tenth annual meeting of this federation, held January 21, 1915 (Harrisburg, 1915. 85 p.), shows that it now has a mem-

bership of forty-one societies, many of which were called into being as a result of the activities of the federation. The president, in his address, complained that the part played by Pennsylvania did not secure adequate consideration in histories of the nation because of the lack of local historical work in the state as compared with New England. If this be true of Pennsylvania, what shall be said of the western states in which active and effective local historical societies, apart from the state institutions, are almost non-existent?

An especially valuable section of the pamphlet contains the reports of the constituent institutions for the year ending January 21, 1915. This contains the names and addresses of officers, number of members, number of meetings held, titles of publications issued and papers read, and statements of special work done. Another section contains lists of publications in the fields of Pennsylvania history, genealogy, and biography, and of books by Pennsylvanians issued during the year—a valuable contribution to the bibliography of the state.

The federation is supported by dues of two dollars a year from each constituent society and by a small appropriation from the the state. It is endeavoring to secure the passage of an act providing for the appointment, in the division of public records of the state library, of a supervisor of public records, "whose duty it shall be to examine into the condition of the records in the several public offices of the counties, cities and boroughs of the Commonwealth"; to recommend such action "as shall be necessary to secure their safety and preservation"; and to "cause all laws relating to public records to be enforced."

From the *Report* of the state librarian of Pennsylvania for 1914 (Harrisburg, 1915. 41 p.) it appears that the staff of the division of public records, which has charge of classifying and indexing the state archives and such county archives as are transferred to its care, consists of a custodian, eleven assistants, and a messenger.

The State Historical Society of Missouri is making a special effort to collect the published minutes of various church organizations in the state and now has several thousand of them. The fact that few of the organizations possess complete files of their

own minutes emphasizes the importance of sending copies of such publications to the state historical society where they are certain to be preserved and where they will be available for future reference.

The June issue of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* is devoted largely to the history of the Northwest. Frederic L. Paxson writes of "A Constitution of Democracy—Wisconsin, 1847"; George N. Fuller, of the "Settlement of Michigan Territory"; and Archer B. Hulbert, of "The Methods and Operations of the Scioto Group of Speculators"; "Historical Activities in the Old Northwest, 1914–1915" are described by Solon J. Buck. The department of "Notes and Documents" contains an account of "Some New-found Records of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" by Milo M. Quaife; a letter relating to "Detroit during the Revolution," contributed by C. M. Burton; and a letter relating to "The French Settlers at Gallipolis," written by Joseph Gilman, a member of the Ohio Company, at Marietta in 1793. This last document was contributed by Mrs. Charles P. Noyes of St. Paul.

The *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for July contains a number of articles of considerable interest to students of Minnesota history. Two of these entitled "The Neutral Ground" and "The Black Hawk War and the Treaty of 1832," both by Jacob Van der Zee, deal with Indian affairs in the upper Mississippi Valley during the thirties and forties. "The Grasshopper Plagues in Iowa," by John E. Briggs, tells of the various visitations, the resultant losses and privations, the relief measures, the attempts to destroy the pests, and the effect on settlement and agriculture. Minnesota and other western states, as well as Iowa, suffered severely from these visitations, and the article necessarily throws light on the whole subject, which is one of considerable importance in the economic history of the Northwest. The archives of the state of Minnesota, especially the miscellaneous files in the governor's office, contain much valuable material on the subject, and presumably similar documents could be found in the archives of the other states involved. Mr. Briggs does not appear to have used any such material, although he has consulted the newspapers and printed documents.

The April issue of the *Annals of Iowa* is a "Public Archives Number." The first article is a valuable paper by Ethel B. Virtue of the Historical Department of Iowa on "Principles of Classification of Archives." This paper was originally prepared for the conference of archivists held in Chicago, December 31, 1914, in connection with the meeting of the American Historical Association. It is illustrated with photographs of the rooms and filing devices of the public archives division of the Historical Department of Iowa. C. C. Stiles, who has charge of archival work in Iowa, presents a detailed schedule of the classification adopted for the documents from the auditor's office. Similar schedules for the offices of governor and secretary of state were published in the *Annals* for October, 1911, and January-April, 1912.

The Tennessee Historical Society has published two numbers, March and June, 1915, of its new quarterly, the *Tennessee Historical Magazine*. Professor St. George L. Sioussat of Vanderbilt University is the editor. Each number contains scholarly historical articles, well-edited documents, and a department of news and notes. In the March issue is printed a bill for the establishment of a state department of archives and history which was introduced in the last legislature. Such a department or commission, charged with the care of archives and historical materials, has been created in nearly every other southern state.

The Historical Department of Iowa has published a pamphlet entitled *Iowa Authors and Their Works, a Contribution toward a Bibliography*, by Alice Marple, assistant curator (Des Moines, 1914. 151 p.). The department has a large collection of the books listed, and much information was secured by circularizing the writers themselves. Biographical data were also collected, although not used in the present work, which is put forward as "tentative."

The South Dakota Department of History has recently issued a pamphlet descriptive of its work (n. d. 32 p.). The department is by law under the management of the state historical society and has charge not only of the state's historical interests but also of the state library, including legislative, reference, and

traveling libraries, the state census, vital statistics, and the preparation and publication of an annual review of the progress of the state. Seven volumes of *Historical Collections* have been published by the department.

The *Texas History Teachers' Bulletin*, which is edited by the history staff of the University of Texas, began in the May number a department of "Source Readings in Texas History" intended for the use of teachers in the grades. The first installment contains two contemporary accounts of life in Texas in the thirties.

Mr. Victor H. Paltsits, keeper of manuscripts in the New York Public Library, has edited from the original manuscript in the collection over which he has charge, the journal of Mrs. Lodisa Frizell of a trip *Across the Plains to California in 1852* (New York, 1915. 30 p.). This is a valuable account of the experiences of a small party which traveled overland from the Little Wabash River in Illinois, via St. Louis, St. Joseph, Fort Kearney, Fort Laramie, and the South Pass. The pamphlet is reprinted from the *Bulletin* of the New York Public Library for April, 1915.

An article on "The Preservation of Historical Records in Holland," by Henry A. Sharp in the *Library World* (London) for January, 1914, is summarized as follows in the *American Library Annual* for 1914-15 (p. 218): "Each of the eleven states of Holland has a provincial depot for the preservation and documentation of local records, that at The Hague being at once the central repository for the whole country, as well as the depot for a specific province. Each depot is in charge of an archivist whose duty it is to collect and index all records in his district, and to make an annual report to the chief archivist. Registers of births, baptisms, betrothals, marriages, deaths, removals, and property are kept. The Amsterdam repository is also collecting material of all kinds relating to the city and the citizens—magazine articles, photographs of buildings, playbills, and portraits."

Dr. W. Dawson Johnston of the St. Paul Public Library has an article on "The Library and History Teaching, with Special Reference to the Teaching of Local History" in *School and Society* for July 3, 1915. Dr. Johnston advocates the extensive

collection of material for local history by libraries, together with a stimulation of interest in the subject by means of lectures and excursions. The Chicago history lectures for children, given weekly under the auspices of the Chicago Historical Society, and the activities of the City History Club of New York in promoting lectures, excursions, and individual study are described. The latter organization has published an *Historical Guide to the City of New York*, compiled by Frank B. Kelley from original observations and contributions made by members and friends of the club (rev. ed., New York, 1913. 421 p.), which is an excellent example of the sort of work that ought to be done in other communities.

"The Evolution of America," by President Frank L. McVey, in the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota for July, 1915, is an historical address delivered at the University of Christiania in 1912. The same issue contains an article by Professor William G. Bek, "Some Facts concerning the Germans of North Dakota," which points out "opportunities for cultural historical studies."

An article entitled "Following Leif Erickson," by Björn B. Jónsson in the *American-Scandinavian Review* for March-April, deals with the settlement of Icelanders in Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and western Canada. A number of representatives of the race who have achieved prominence in politics or business are referred to. Among them is Hon. G. B. Björnson of Minnesota, Minnesota, whose picture accompanies the article.

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for Sunday, July 11, contains a feature story on early steamboating on the Mississippi. It opens with an account of an interview with Captain Fred A. Bill of Minneapolis, who was formerly connected with the Diamond Jo Line and who has made an extensive collection of pictures of steamboats and river scenes. Then follow extracts from a paper dealing with early steamboat days read at the recent meeting of the Minnesota Old Settlers' Association by Mrs. Jeanette Lamprey, a daughter of Captain Louis Robert. The article ends with a brief sketch of Captain Robert's career by R. I. Holcombe. Captain Robert was a prominent riverman before the Civil War

and played an important part in the early history of St. Paul and Minnesota. Mrs. Lamprey's paper was printed in full in the Burlington (Iowa) *Saturday Evening Post* of June 26 and reprinted in the issue of July 17.

A "History of Navigation on the Red River of the North, 1858-1915," by Frank M. Painter of St. Paul, has been published in the issues of the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, for June 12 and 19 and July 3 and 10, 1915. Another article entitled "Steamboating on the Red River of the North," by Fred A. Bill of Minneapolis, appeared in the July 31 and August 7 issues of the same paper. A manuscript copy of this article, which was written for the North Dakota Historical Society, was presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by Mr. Bill several months ago.

The bureau of navigation of the navy department has issued a *Course in History, Geography, Arithmetic, etc., for the Use of Enlisted Men* (Washington, 1915. 91 p.). The pamphlet consists entirely of brief questions and answers, of which the following are typical: "Q. How did the Indians spend their time? A. They hunted with bows and arrows and fished." "Q. What did Lincoln do about a month after he became President?" "Q. What catastrophe occurred on the Pacific coast of the United States in 1906?" Apparently the pedagogical methods of the early nineteenth century have not entirely disappeared from the land. It might be well for the officials in charge of this work in the navy to consult with some of the experts in the bureau of education.

In the *Nation* for May 20 appeared an interesting editorial entitled "Our States and Their History," in which attention is called to the work being done by some of the state and local historical societies. The writer points out the value of this work and argues for increased attention to the history of the separate states. Many of the ideas in the editorial and most of the illustrative anecdotes appear to have been derived, either directly or indirectly, from Professor Alvord's paper in the first number of the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, although the paper itself is not mentioned. Still more surprising is the reference to a "wealthy . . . Minneapolis Historical Society."

Attention should be called to an error on page 74 of the last issue of the BULLETIN. It appears that the recently destroyed St. Paul Public Library building was not the old market house which was built in 1853, but another building constructed in 1881 on the same site and for similar purposes.

MINNESOTA PUBLICATIONS

Results of Spirit Leveling in Minnesota, 1897 to 1914, Inclusive, by R. B. Marshall, chief geographer of the United States Geological Survey, has been issued by the survey as *Bulletin* 560 (Washington, 1915. 190 p.). From 1909 to 1914, inclusive, the work upon which the publication is based was carried on in coöperation with the state of Minnesota.

An Investigation of the Concrete Road-Making Properties of Minnesota Stone and Gravel, by Charles Franklin Shoop, assistant professor of experimental engineering, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, 1915. 46 p.), is number 2 of *Studies in Engineering* published by the University of Minnesota.

The *Northwestern Miller* has issued the seventh annual edition of the *Miller's Almanack and Year Book of the Trade* for the year 1915-16 (Minneapolis, May 1915. 240 p.). The volume contains general information and statistical data of value to the grain and milling industries, gathered from authoritative sources. Although compiled primarily for the industries concerned, this series of publications will be of great service to the future economic historian.

Through the Mill by "4342," a *Prison Story That's Different* (St. Paul, G. L. Bartlett, c. 1915. 139 p.) is a well-written and reliable account of the Minnesota state prison at Stillwater, based on the experiences of an intelligent ex-convict. The routine of the prison is carefully described, several sets of rules are printed in full, and a number of chapters are devoted to an arraignment of the "Indeterminate Sentence."

"A Few Facts Relating to the Minnesota State Board of Health," by Dr. H. M. Bracken; "A Letter on the Criticisms of the Minnesota State Board of Health," by Oscar C. Pierson; and an editorial on "The Ethical Side of the State Board of Health,"

by Dr. W. A. Jones, have been reprinted from the *Journal-Lancet* of August 1, 1915, in the form of a pamphlet (23 p.).

An editorial on "The University of Minnesota and the Mayo Foundation" is reprinted from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association in *School and Society* for July 3, 1915.

The superintendent of education, C. G. Schulz, has brought out the *Eighteenth Biennial Report* of his department, in which statistics of teachers, pupils, property, appropriations, etc., both general and by counties, are given for the school years ending in 1913 and 1914 (1915. 117 p.). A report of the state normal school board is included.

The *Seventh Biennial Report* of the state board of control (1915. 448 p.) covers the period ending July 31, 1914. The book contains a large amount of information, including much statistical material of interest to sociologists and of value to the future student of social history. Reports of the executives of the many institutions under the control of the board are included.

The *Fifth Biennial Report* of the state board of health (1915. 294 p.) covers the work of the board and of its various departments during 1913 and 1914 and contains vital statistics for 1912 and 1913.

The board of education of Minneapolis has published a *Report* covering the school and fiscal years ending June 30, 1912, June 30, 1913, and June 30, 1914 ([Minneapolis, 1915]. 223 p.). The volume furnishes an interesting and valuable chapter in the educational history of Minneapolis. Superintendent Jordan in his report to the board for this period, besides giving the usual statistics of enrollment and equipment, makes special mention of social center work; of the establishment of the Thomas Arnold School as a disciplinary and opportunity school and of open air schools and schools for the mentally defective; of the school savings department; and of the teachers' retirement fund association. Supplementing the report of the superintendent are reports of the supervisors of various special departments. Of particular interest will be the one covering evening school work, the statement of the work of the summer schools, the report of the 1913

school census, and the statistics furnished by the truant officer. The book contains numerous half-tone illustrations.

The *Twenty-fifth Annual Report* of the Minneapolis Public Library (Minneapolis, [1915]. 48 p.) covers the year 1914 and deals not only with the central library and its branches, but also with the Minneapolis Athenaeum, which is affiliated with the library.

The *Thirty-second Annual Report* of the board of park commissioners (Minneapolis, [1915]. 157 p.) records the activities of the board during the year and contains a large amount of interesting information about the parks and playgrounds of the city. The *Report* is attractively printed and contains numerous illustrations, maps, and diagrams.

Number 3 of volume 3, new series, of the *Macalester College Bulletin* is the *Catalog Number* for the year 1914-15, containing calendar and curricula announcements for the year 1915-16 (St. Paul, April, 1915. 124 p.).

The St. Cloud State Normal School has issued its *Annual Catalog* for the school year ending June 9, 1915, with the announcements for the year 1915-16 ([St. Cloud, 1915]. 43 p.).

The *Thirteenth Annual Catalogue* of the Duluth State Normal School ([Duluth, 1915]. 40 p.) contains announcements of courses of study for the year 1915-16.

In its *Catalogue* for the year 1915-16 the Red Wing Seminary and College outlines the courses offered in the various departments: theological, collegiate, academic, and commercial (Red Wing, May, 1915. 42 p.).

A series of articles reminiscent of early days in Winona by Orrin Fruit Smith appeared in the issues of the *Winona Republican-Herald* for June 26, July 3 and 10, 1915.

In the July 22, 1915 issue of the *Battle Lake Review* appeared an interesting sketch by Henry Way of Audubon of the early-day trials of the first settlers of Battle Lake.

In a letter to the *St. James Plaindealer*, July 31, 1915, I. H.

Mather gives some personal recollections of early days in Minnesota, describing in particular the early schools with their lack of good books and equipment.

The July 14, 1915 issue of the *Mankato Daily Review* contains an interesting account of an auto trip taken by a party of pioneer residents of Blue Earth County to points of old-time interest along the Watonwan River and in the country thereabout.

The *Morgan Messenger* announces in its issue of July 29, 1915, the publication in the coming fall of a history of Redwood County by H. C. Cooper Jr. and Company of Chicago. The early history of this county is of especial interest, since the first outbreak of the Sioux War of 1862 occurred at the Lower Sioux Agency, which was located in the northwestern quarter of the present township of Sherman.

A full account of the sixth annual reunion of the old settlers of Marshall County, at which over one thousand persons were in attendance, is given in the July 30, 1915 issue of the *Stephen Leader*. The principal speaker on the afternoon program was Congressman Steenerson, who, after giving an account of his experiences in pioneer days, made some comparison between the commercial business of that early time and the present-day "trusts."

Captain Henry A. Castle has an article in the July number of the *North American Review* on "The Post Office and Socialism." Captain Castle was postmaster of St. Paul, 1892-96 and auditor of the United States Post Office Department, 1897-1903.

The H. W. Wilson Company, formerly of Minneapolis and now of White Plains, New York, has issued an *Index to Short Stories*, compiled by Ina Ten Eyck Firkins, reference librarian at the University of Minnesota (1915. 374 p.).

Dr. W. Dawson Johnston of the St. Paul Public Library is the author of an article on "Public Libraries and the Drama" in the *Bulletin of Bibliography* for July.

Radisson, the Voyageur (New York, Holt, 1914. 115 p.) is the title of "a verse drama in four acts" by Lily A. Long of St.

Paul. The experiences of Radisson and Groseilliers, the first white men who are known to have penetrated the region beyond Lake Superior, furnish the historical background for a love adventure between the hero and an Indian maiden, all told in excellent verse. An historical note is appended, and directions are given as to costuming and mounting for amateur production.

Rev. Edward Schuch, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Bethlehem Church of Minneapolis, is the author of an interesting book on *Castles and Abbeys of England in Poetic and Romantic Lore* (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, c. 1915. 320 p.).

Mr. Warren Upham, archeologist of the Minnesota Historical Society, has an article entitled "Geologic and Archaeologic Time" in *Bibliotheca Sacra* for July. A number of separates have been issued.